

## WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An ink-jet printing apparatus for carrying out the printing operation by using printing means for ejecting  
5 ink, comprising:

recovery means for recovering the ink ejection of the printing means in a favorable state by receiving ink from the printing means; and

10 ink-retaining means for absorbing and retaining the ink received in the recovery means and discharged from a discharging portion thereof through a flow passage; wherein

said recovery means and said ink-retaining means are disposed approximately at the same height when said ink-jet  
15 printing apparatus is in the posture to be used, and said flow passage is formed as a sealed space except for portions connected to said discharging portion of said recovery means and to said ink-retaining means; said flow passage being provided with an absorber while remaining a gap from  
20 said discharging portion to said ink-retaining means.

2. An ink-jet printing apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein said ink-retaining means has a container sealed except for portions to be connected to said flow passage  
25 and communicated with outer air, and an absorber accommodated in said container.

3. An ink-jet printing apparatus as claimed in claim  
2, wherein a continuous space is formed between the  
portions to be connected to said flow passage and  
communicated with outer air; said space passing by the  
5 outer surface of said accommodated absorber in the interior  
of said container.

4. An ink-jet printing apparatus as claimed in claim  
3, wherein said continuous space is connected and  
10 contiguous to said gap of said flow passage at a portion  
connected to said flow passage.

5. An ink-jet printing apparatus as claimed in claim  
4, wherein said continuous space is formed to be narrower  
15 from the portion connected to said flow passage to the  
portion communicated with outer air.

6. An ink-jet printing apparatus as claimed in claim  
2, wherein said absorber disposed in said flow passage is  
20 connected to said absorber accommodated in said container.

7. An ink-jet printing apparatus as claimed in claim  
1, wherein said flow passage is integral with said recovery  
means.

25

8. An ink-jet printing apparatus as claimed in claim  
7, wherein said recovery means comprises a pump for

forcibly expelling ink by the application of a suction force to an ink-ejection portion of said printing means, and said flow passage is integral with a base for supporting said pump to connect a discharging port of said pump with  
5 said ink-retaining means.